(IOC) has reported that there is a waiting list of 30035 as on 01.07.2009 for release of new connections with their LPG distributors in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) OMCs have released 15.22 lakh new LPG connections during the last three years in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The details are as under:-

(Figs. In lakh)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
IOC	2.27	3.14	2.05
BPCL	0.58	1.01	1.45
HPCL	1.23	2.17	1.32
TOTAL :	4.08	6.32	4.82

The district-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

Investment in gas field in Iran

1734.SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is planning to invest US$ 3 billion in the Farzad gas field in Iran;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed investment;

(c) the amount of gas that ONGC could extract form the above gas field; and

(d) how Indian companies are competing with China to grab more and more oil fields in Iran?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd.(OVL) has submitted Master Development Plan (MPD) of Farzad – B gas field, Persian Guf, Iran to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) in compliance to the provisions of the Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for Farsi Block. The amount of the investment will depand on the approval of MDP by Iranian authorities.

(c) The potential of the gas production from Farzad – B gas field in 30 years is about 9.7 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF). Since the Farsi block is being operated by OVL under ESC, the amount of gas has not been committed to OVL.

(d) As there are number of opportunities for companies desiring to invest in Iran, at present Indian National Oil Companies are not competing with China to acquire oil field in Iran, however, competition cannot be ruled out in future as it will depend on the type and quality of opportunity being made available.

Profit of ONGC

1735.SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC's net profit dropped by 16 percent in its net profit in the quarter ended March 31 due to subsidy burden;

(b) whether ONGC's share of subsidies to oil marketing companies like IOC. HPCL, BPCL for selling petrol, diesel, LPG and Kerosene was 852 crore in the fourth quarter;

(c) if so. the details thereof?

(d) whether the operating income of the company also fell to Rs. 13,833 crore from Rs. 16,699 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous year, and oil production declined to six and half million tonnes in the fourth quarter, against seven million tonnes a year ago; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The decline in net profit of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during fourth quarter of 2008-09 by 16 percent as compared to the fourth quarter of 2007-08 is mainly due to fall in operating income during fourth quarter of 2008-09.

(b) and (c) ONGC's share of subsidies to oil marketing companies *viz* Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in the fourth quarter of 2008-09 was as follows:-

Company	Amount in Rs Crore
IOC	55.15
HPCL	237.85
BPCL	559.00
TOTAL :	852.00

(d) and (e) Operating income of ONGC decreased by Rs. 1,865 crore (from Rs. 15,699 crore in fourth quarter of 2007-08 to Rs. 13,834 crore) in fourth quarter of 2008-09. ONGC's actual crude oil production (excluding Joint Ventures) during fourth quarter of 2007-08 and 2008-09 were 6.449 Million Metric Tons (MMT) and 6.030 MMT respectively. The reasons for less oil production in the fourth quarter of year 2008-09 by ONGC are as under:

i) Less base potential, less input in terms of side track wells in Mumbai High.

ii) Delay in installation of platforms under Heera Redevelopment project.

iii) Less gain from Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) fields of Balol and Santhal at Mehsana.

iv) Less than envisaged gain from workover in Ahmedahad, less than envisaged gain from the development and workover wells in Assam, and Less than envisaged gain from Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes of Assam asset.